

*SYLLABUS: Updated 1/26/2016*

## **POS 360: World Politics, Spring 2016**

Instructor: Professor Thorin Wright  
Office: Coor Hall, 6730  
Office Phone: 480-727-5982  
Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 3-4p  
& by appointment

Email: thorin.wright@asu.edu  
(I only check email during business hrs.)  
Classroom: Coor L1-20  
Meeting Time : Tues-Thur, 1:30- 2:45p

Teaching Assistant:  
Alicia Ellis (alicia.ellis@asu.edu)

### **Course Overview and Objectives**

From international conflict to global trade, international politics affects our lives in numerous ways. This course examines global politics in a scientific and rigorous way. Students will gain an understanding of how to ask and answer global political questions from a social science perspective.

We begin with an overview of the major system level theories of world politics and then proceed to explore specific topics. We will explore the specific topics of foreign-policy making, international conflict, international trade, international governance, Human Rights, how the environment impacts world politics, and conflict management and resolution.

This course's goal is to teach undergraduates the major theories and explanations of international relations. The readings for this course surveys major explanations of global politics as a system, theories of conflict, as well as theories about cooperation. Students will be exposed to theoretically driven as well as empirical research.

### **Learning Objectives and Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, students should:

- Gain familiarity with the major theories of international international relations
- Be able to apply explanations of conflict to the explanation and understanding of real world scenarios
- Be able to explain historical cases in light of the theories presented in class
- Be able to read and understand empirical research in the social sciences.

## Required Books

Goldstein, Joshua, and Jon Pevehouse, 10th edition. *International Relations, 10th (2013-2014 edition)* Pearson Press. (hereafter **GP**)

Other required readings are journal articles and news articles that I will post to blackboard the week before they are required.

**Note on the Readings:** Some of the readings refer to or include statistical analysis. I will explain the basics of understanding what these tables mean early on in the course. Students are encouraged not to take away the specifics of any one statistical analysis, but rather the logic of the explanation provided and understand what the major findings are, but not the mechanics of the statistical modeling.

## Course Format

On Tuesdays, I will typically provide a broad overview lecture of the subject area being covered that week, which will be partially based on the assigned readings. Thursdays will wrap up lecture, but will in general be reserved mainly for group discussion sections where students review and discuss course material.

Students are expected to complete and understand the readings, attend class on a regular basis, and contribute to classroom discussions. Students should come to class having read the material assigned for that day. I will NOT redistribute materials, lecture notes, or assignments to students that miss class for any reason. I treat all non-university excused absences equally.

### **Pop Music Related to World Politics Topics:**

On several days throughout the semester (if not most), just before the class period begins as I prepare for class, I will play songs that are topically related to the course. These songs often present differing perspectives related to international political issues, and **do not** reflect my perspective or opinion (or even my musical taste in some cases). Songs are chosen because they present some perspective that students may find interesting, informative, or thought-provoking.

## Course Requirements

The grade for the course will be based on performance on two exams and a research paper:

1. Exams: 75% (3 exams at 25% each)
2. Research Project: 15%
3. Group Discussion Days: 10% (Participation in group discussion sections on Thursday classes).

#### 4. **Research Study Participation Requirement:**

Students enrolled in this course are required to complete a research assignment that can include up to 2 hours of research study participation. These studies require that students set up an appointment to complete participation at a laboratory on campus (or via an on-line survey). Students will learn how studies are conducted and will receive a synopsis at the conclusion of the semester describing the study's goal, result, and relevance to the class. Students who prefer not to participate in research as subjects may opt for an alternative that entails finding an article using the experimental method published in a scholarly journal like American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, or Journal of Experimental Political Science by using Google Scholar. <http://scholar.google.com/>. Write a three-page summary and critique of the article. The typical article is about 20 pages and thus reading it and writing a three-page paper should take approximately two hours.

During the second week of the semester, students will receive an announcement and e-mail through Blackboard including details on how to complete either requirement. Note that if you are enrolled in multiple POS classes that require participation, you only need to satisfy the requirement one time.

The following website will direct students to the SPAGS experimental website where they can register for an experimental session.

<http://spgslab.wordpress.com/experimental-participation-sign-up/>

**Completing the research requirement is REQUIRED for you to pass this course.**

**Grading Scale:** The following grading scale is used for this course:

99-100: A+  
93-98: A  
90-92: A-  
87-89: B+  
83-86: B  
80-82: B-  
77-79: C+  
70-76: C  
60-69: D  
< 60: E

There are **no** extra credit opportunities in this course. There is no rounding of grades in this course (e.g., a 89.9 is a B+ and not an A-). Providing point bumps is unfair to your classmates who do not receive such a bump so please do not ask me for any grade adjustment. If you need an A (or B or C) then you must earn it.

**MAKE-UP POLICY for paper topics, papers, exams, or participation exercises.** There are NO makeup assignments, papers, or exams. Late papers and paper-topics will NOT be accepted. If an emergency or University excused absence prevents you from completing an assignment, you must contact me prior to class (and receive confirmation from me regarding such contact), explain

the nature of the emergency, and subsequently present documentation verifying the explanation. If the emergency proves valid you will not be penalized.

## **Exams (75%)**

There will be three exams, each worth 25% of the total grade. The first exam will cover the topics of weeks 1-6, the second for weeks 8-12, with the final exam being comprehensive for the entire semester. Each exam will be a combination of multiple choice and 5 short answer questions of concepts or how concepts relate to each other. The criteria for these exams is not that students be able to recite just the basics of a theory or a concept, but to be able to critically evaluate explanations and integrate material from different topics together.

Questions will draw on material included in both the readings and the lectures.

**NOTE: Students will not need a blue book for exams.**

Exam 1: Feb 25 (in-class).

Exam 2: April 7 (in-class)

Comprehensive Final Exam: Thursday, May 5 12:10-2:00 PM (in our regular classroom).

## **Research Project (15%)**

Students will be tasked with writing a short research paper (5 pages) that summarizes and analyzes a scholarly article and investigates current events to highlight the theoretical aspects discussed in the journal article against real-world events. A more detailed set of guidelines will be distributed later in the semester.

NOTE: Late assignments will not be accepted. Please see above for the makeup policy regarding how emergencies are handled.

**Papers due: April 22 via SafeAssign on Blackboard.**

## **Group Discussion Days (10%)**

In addition to impromptu written answers to discussion questions, students will be organized into discussion groups early on in the semester (after the add/drop deadline). On \*most\* Thursdays, students will split into their groups and given a list of relevant questions and topics to discuss. These topics will include (but not be limited to): reviewing course reading and lecture material, discussing empirical applications of theory, and current events pertaining to international relations. Additionally, for each topic on Thursdays, either I or my T.A. will sit in with one group to help guide the discussions. Attendance and participation in this discussions will be recorded and incorporated into the group discussion portion of the grade.

## **Research Study Participation Requirement: Required to Pass Class.**

Students enrolled in this course are required to complete a research assignment that can include up to 2 hours of research study participation. These studies require that students set up an appointment to complete participation at a laboratory on campus (or via an on-line survey). Students will learn how studies are conducted and will receive a synopsis at the conclusion of the semester describing the study's goal, result, and relevance to the class. Students who prefer not to participate in research as subjects may opt for an alternative that entails finding an article using the experimental method published in a scholarly journal like American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, or Journal of Experimental Political Science by using Google Scholar. <http://scholar.google.com/>. Write a three-page summary and critique of the article. The typical article is about 20 pages and thus reading it and writing a three-page paper should take approximately two hours.

During the second week of the semester, students will receive an announcement and e-mail through Blackboard including details on how to complete either requirement. Note that if you are enrolled in multiple POS classes that require participation, you only need to satisfy the requirement one time.

The following website will direct students to the SPAGS experimental website where they can register for an experimental session.

<http://spgslab.wordpress.com/experimental-participation-sign-up/>

**Again, completing the research requirement is REQUIRED for you to pass this course.**

## **Preparation**

Students are expected to have read the week's readings **by the beginning of the week** they are assigned, with the exception of the first class. The lectures are based in part on the reading, but neither the lectures nor readings alone will prepare students adequately for the exam. All course readings not included in the books are available via ASU's digital library.

Students are expected to complete and understand the readings, attend class on a regular basis, and contribute to classroom discussions. Students should come to class having read the material assigned for that day. I will NOT redistribute materials, lecture notes, or assignments to students that miss class for any reason. I treat all non-university excused absences equally.

## **Attendance Policy**

Attending class on a regular basis will be necessary to do well in the course, and therefore attendance will be accounted for in every group discussion meeting on the Thursdays in which they occur. Therefore attendance is incorporated into the participation grade. If you missed class, please consult the syllabus to see what you missed. Please **DO NOT** email me asking what was covered in class, and please instead consult the assigned readings, discuss with classmates, make

an appointment, or stop by during office hours to discuss the readings. I will not redistribute notes, course materials or make power point slides available.

## **Classroom & Communication Etiquette**

Please leave all cell-phones or other messaging devices turned off and put away. Laptops and tablets are allowed for note-taking only and students will be asked to leave the classroom if caught violating this. Students who are disruptive in class will be asked to leave.

I do not allow the recording of lectures, nor photography of power point slides. It is a violation of intellectual property to do so.

During lectures, questions are encouraged. Please feel free to raise your hand and ask for clarification at *any* time during the lecture.

During class debates and discussion, differing opinions are encouraged. Some of the topics in class are controversial, and a diversity of civilly expressed opinions are tolerated. HOWEVER, I will not tolerate personal attacks or statements that single out students or groups on the basis of gender, age, religion, race, ethnicity, nationality or sexual orientation. Students who violate this will be asked to leave the classroom.

**E-MAIL ETIQUETTE:** I will try to respond to most emails within 48 hours, excluding weekends. Please consult the syllabus, paper guide, or prior electronic course announcements before emailing me. There's a good chance your question will be answered from one of those sources. I will not respond to emails asking questions that could be answered by reading the syllabus or the course website. In particular, please do not ask what topics were discussed in a class you missed. The syllabus provides that information.

Furthermore, please use proper salutations (I'm Professor Wright or Dr. Wright, for instance. Your T.A. is Ms. Ellis), sentence structure, and grammar when communicating via email. E-mails to professors are professional in nature, so please remember that. I will not respond to emails that do not use proper salutations, sentence structure, and grammar.

## **Disability Accommodations**

Qualified students with disabilities who will require disability accommodations in this class are encouraged to make their requests to me at the beginning of the semester either during office hours or by appointment. Note: Prior to receiving disability accommodations, verification of eligibility from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) is required. Their office is located on the first floor of the Matthews Center Building. DRC staff can also be reached at: 480-965-1234 (V), 480-965-9000 (TTY). For additional information, visit: [www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/ed/drc](http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/ed/drc). Their hours are 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Disability information is confidential.

## **Title IX**

Title IX is a federal law that provides that no person be excluded on the basis of sex from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. Both Title IX and university policy make clear that sexual violence and harassment based on sex is prohibited. An individual who believes they have been subjected to sexual violence or harassed on the basis of sex can seek support, including counseling and academic support, from the university. If you or someone you know has been harassed on the basis of sex or sexually assaulted, you can find information and resources at <http://sexualviolenceprevention.asu.edu/faqs/students>.

## **Academic Honesty and Integrity**

**Student Obligations** (from the official University Academic Integrity Policy: <https://provost.asu.edu/sites/default/files/AcademicIntegrityPolicyPDF.pdf>). Also see: <http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity>

Each student must act with honesty and integrity, and must respect the rights of others in carrying out all academic assignments. A student may be found to have engaged in academic dishonesty if, in connection with any Academic Evaluation or academic or research assignment (including a paid research position), he or she:

- A. Engages in any form of academic deceit;
- B. Refers to materials or sources or uses devices (e.g., computer disks, audio recorders, camera phones, text messages, crib sheets, calculators, solution manuals, materials from previous classes, or commercial research services) not authorized by the instructor for use during the Academic Evaluation or assignment;
- C. Possesses, reviews, buys, sells, obtains, or uses, without appropriate authorization, any materials intended to be used for an Academic Evaluation or assignment in advance of its administration;
- D. Acts as a substitute for another person in any Academic Evaluation or assignment;
- E. Uses a substitute in any Academic Evaluation or assignment;
- F. Depends on the aid of others, including other students or tutors, in connection with any Academic Evaluation or assignment to the extent that the work is not representative of the student's abilities;
- G. Provides inappropriate aid to another person in connection with any Academic Evaluation or assignment, including the unauthorized use of camera phones, text messages, photocopies, notes or other means to copy or photograph materials used or intended for Academic Evaluation;
- H. Engages in Plagiarism;

- I. Uses materials from the Internet or any other source without full and appropriate attribution;
- J. Permits his or her work to be submitted by another person in connection with any Academic Evaluation or assignment, without authorization;
- K. Claims credit for or submits work done by another;
- L. Signs an attendance sheet for another student, allows another student to sign on the student's behalf, or otherwise participates in gaining credit for attendance for oneself or another without actually attending;
- M. Falsifying or misrepresenting hours or activities in relationship to an internship, externship, field experience, clinical activity or similar activity; or
- N. Attempts to influence or change any Academic Evaluation, assignment or academic record for reasons having no relevance to academic achievement.

There are severe sanctions for cheating, plagiarizing and any other form of dishonesty. Please see the Student Code of Conduct and Student Disciplinary Procedures. An initial incident will result in the student receiving an E and zero points for exam. A second incident will result in a failure (E or possibly an XE failure for academic dishonesty) for the course. All work must be yours and it must be original to this class. If you have questions about this, please ask us. All instances of academic dishonesty will, per CLAS policy, be reported to the appropriate authority in CLAS.

## **Policy Regarding Absences for Religious Observances**

University policy asks that students inform their instructors if they will need to miss class due to religious observances at the beginning of the semester. Please contact me within the first week of the semester so that either alternate due dates or make up exams may be scheduled well in advance.

## **Course Schedule**

Note: I reserve the right to alter any of the reading assignments with at least a week's notice ahead of their assignment. All non-textbook readings will be posted to blackboard about a week before they are required.

### **Week 1 (January 12-14): Course Overview and Introduction: The Scientific Study of International Relations**

No required reading.



## **Week 2 (Jan 19-21:) Realist Theories of International Relations**

GP, Chapter 2

## **Week 3 (Jan 26-28): Realism Continued**

GP, Chapter 2

## **Week 4 (Feb 2-4): Liberalism**

GP, Chapter 3

Keohane, Robert O., and Lisa L. Martin. 1995. "The promise of institutionalist theory." *International Security*. 20(1): 39-51

## **Week 5 Feb (9-11): Constructivism**

GP, Chapter 3

Finnemore, Martha, and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. "International norm dynamics and political change." *International Organization* 52(4): 887-917

## **Week 6 Feb (16-18): Foreign Policy**

GP, Chapter 4

Film: *The Fog of War*

## **Week 7(Feb 23-25:) Catch-up, review and first exam**

**FIRST EXAM, THURS FEB 25**

## **Week 8(March 1-3:) Conflict and War I**

GP, Chapter 5

Fearon, James. 1995. "Rationalist Explanations for War." *International Organization*. 49: 379-414.

## **Week 9(March 8-10:) SPRING BREAK**

## **Week 10 (March 15-17:) Conflict and War II**

GP, Chapter 6

Goddard, Stacie E. 2006. "Uncommon Ground: Territorial Conflict and the Politics of Legitimacy." *International Organization*. 60: 35-68.

## **Week 11 (March 22-24:) International Law and Human Rights**

GP, Chapter 7

Davenport, Christian. 2007. "State Repression and Political Order" *Annual Review of Political Science*

Other reading TBD.

## **Week 12 (March 29-31:) International Trade**

GP, Chapter 8

Calmes, Jackie. 2015. "Trans-Pacific Partnership Text Released, Waving Green Flag for Debate." *The New York Times*. November 5, 2015.

Gunn, Dwyer. 2015. "Will the Trans-Pacific Partnership Make Workers' Lives Better?" *Pacific Standard*. November 12, 2015

## **Week 13 (March 29-31:) MID-TERM II**

Review and Catch-up: Tuesday, March 29.

**SECOND EXAM: Thursday, March 31.**

## **Week 14 (March April 5-7:) International Integration**

GP, Chapter 10

Other Reading TBD

## **Week 15 (March April 12-14:) The Environment**

**GP**, Chapter 11

Salehyan, Idean. 2014. "Climate Change and Conflict: Making Sense of Disparate Findings." *Political Geography*. 43: 1-5.

Devlin, Colleen, and Cullen S. Hendrix. 2014. "Trends and Triggers Redux: Climate Change, Rainfall, and Interstate Conflict." *Political Geography*. 43: 27-39.

## **Week 16 (March April 19-21:) International Development**

**GP**, Chapter 12

**Research Projects due April 22!**

## **Week 17: FINALS WEEKS**

**Cumulative Final Exam Thursday, May 5 12:10-2:00 PM (in our regular classroom).**